13.16 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Fourth Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA (Andaman-Nicobar): I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications)- Telecommunications and Ministers of the sittings of the Committee relation thereto.

13.16 1/2 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

First Report

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the First report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on Collection and Recovery of Tax and Arrears of Demands.

13.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to ensure that goods trains carrying bananas sent from Jalgaon to Delhi reach in time

[English]

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL (Erandol): The Banana growers of Jalgaon district are suffering heavy losses due to late running of plantation special trains. Earlier the goods trains used to reach Delhi within 58 hours. But of late, the trains are unnecessarily detaineden route specially at Jhansi Division. Though the distance between Tuglakabad to N.D.A.Z. is about 32 kms. but running time is generally 4 to 7 hours. This can definitely be brought down.

Because of late arrivals, the farmers do not get fair price for bannas, which is a perishable commodity. Though last year, many B.C.N. wagons were supplied, but the same have not been available this year.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and ensure that the Goods trains carrying bananas reach Delhi within 58 hours and also adequate number of B.C.N. wagons are supplied.

(ii) Need to review the proposal of Government to levy electricity fees on small and marginal farmers

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): The Minister of State for Power was recently in Madras and made a statement that he had written to all State Governments including the Tamil Nadu Government to levy electricity charges on small and marginal farmers presently provided to them on free of fee basis for agricultural operations. It may be appreciated that in Tamil Nadu out of the total power production 21 per cent is consumed by agricultural sector, 42 per cent by industry, 20 per cent by domestic users and the rest is lost in transmission, pilferages etc. I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government that higher tariff should be charged on the private/public industries for power consumption and the revenue gap may also be made good by grossly cutting down the transmission losses and polferages. I urge upon the Government to review proposal of charging electricity fees from small and marginal farmers in the country.